

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (currently amended). The process Process for preparing an oxidant according to Claim 144, wherein the ion exchanger used is an anion exchanger.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The process Process for preparing an oxidant according to Claim 2, wherein the ion exchanger used is a weakly basic anion exchanger.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The process Process for preparing an oxidant according to claim 144, wherein the metal salt is a transition metal salt.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The process Process for preparing an oxidant according to Claim 4, wherein the transition metal salt is an iron(III) salt.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The process Process for preparing an oxidant according to claim 144, wherein the radical of the organic acid is a radical of a sulphonic acid.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The process Process for preparing an oxidant according to claim 5, wherein the transition metal salt is Fe(III) p-toluenesulphonate, Fe(III) o-toluenesulphonate or a mixture of Fe(III) p-toluenesulphonate and Fe(III) o-toluenesulphonate.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The process ~~Process for preparing an oxidant~~ according to claim 144, wherein the process is carried out in the presence of one or more solvent(s).

Claim 9 (currently amended). The Process ~~Process for preparing an oxidant~~ according to claim 8, wherein the solvent or solvents used is/are one or more alcohol(s), water or a mixture of one or more alcohol(s) and water.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The process ~~Process for preparing an oxidant~~ according to claim 9, wherein said alcohol(s) is/are butanol, ethanol or methanol.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The process ~~Process for preparing an oxidant~~ according to claim 8, wherein the oxidant is separated from the solvent after treatment with the ion exchanger and optionally is redissolved in the same solvent or another solvent.

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (currently amended). The process ~~Oxidant~~ according to Claim 1412, wherein said oxidant is present in solution and the solution has a water content of from 0 to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the solution.

Claim 14 (currently amended). A process for the oxidative polymerization of precursors for the preparation of conductive polymers ~~wherein said process is carried out with an oxidant of claim 12 as a retarding oxidant, the process comprising:~~
~~preparing an oxidant by treating a metal salt of an organic acid or an inorganic acid having organic radicals with an ion exchanger; and~~

mixing the oxidant with at least one precursor for preparing at least one conductive polymer.

Claims 15-75 (cancelled).